Work Session

Common Council

July 9, 1996

Present:

Mayor Joseph Biviano
Ald. George Carnrike
Ald. Patrick McNeil
Ald. Robert Rabinowitz
Ald. Barbara Schermerhorn
Ald. Mat Thall
Ald. Charles Angelino

Also:

Director of Finance/Clerk Brian Haak
DPW Supt. Carl Ivarson
Human Resources Dir. Deborah DeForest
Asst. Engineer Asa Allison
Historian Patricia Scott
CD Director David Wagoner
Deputy Clerk Donna Russell

Absent
Supervisor John Dolan
Supervisor Linda Natoli

Parking Lot at Elks Club -- Asst. Engineer Allison reported, relative to the parking lot at the Elks Club, the surface has been sealed and will be striped on Thursday. The lot will be oiled and stoned in approximately three months. He noted that other than using City labor forces, the project is being paid for by the Business Improvement District. Mr. Allison said he will be meeting with NYSEG relative to lighting for the lot.

Depot Renovation Bids -- Asst. Engineer Allison presented a memo from the Public Works Committee recommending the contracts for the Depot Renovation be awarded to the lowest qualified bidders meeting specifications. He noted that he has negotiated the contracts down approximately $36,000 by committing the City to do some of the work in-house. The in-house work would consist of painting the exterior of the building, demolition of the interior of the building and installing sidewalks. Change orders would be required once the project gets underway.

-- Ald. Angelino moved to award the bids for Depot Renovations to the lowest qualified bidders meeting specifications as recommended by the Public Works Committee as follows:

Contract 2-G-96 - General -- Custom Building Unlimited of Rome, NY, in the amount of $204,211.

Contract 2-E-96 - Electrical -- Panko Electrical and Maintenance of Binghamton, NY, in the amount of $43,200.

Contract 2-M-96 - Heating, Ventilating, Plumbing & Air Conditioning -- A. Treffeisen & Son of Oneonta, NY, in the amount of $72,760.

Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all on a roll call vote, 6-0.

Freight Depot -- Asst. Engineer Allison reported the Public Works Committee has recommended that the Freight Depot be pursued for use as City Court and Common Council Chambers. He estimates the cost of the renovations to be approximately the same as the City Hall Depot renovations and the cost of preparing the plans to be approximately $30,000.

-- Ald. Angelino moved that plans be prepared and bids be let out for the renovation of the Freight Depot. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all on a roll call vote, 6-0.

Historian Scott suggested the City pursue grant funding for the project through the NYS Department of Parks and Historic Preservation. The Mayor explained that this was attempted previously and no agreement could be reached between the Court System and Historic Preservation.

Mayor Biviano noted, however, that grant funding will be pursued for a multi-purpose skating rink and development of the greenbelt.

Appointments to Civil Service Commission -- Mayor Biviano reported the following appointments to the Civil Service Commission:

A. Anthony Abraham, 30-40 Midland Drive, to the remainder of a six year term expiring May 31, 2000.

Michael Carnrike, 18 York Street, to the remainder of a six year term expiring May 31, 2002.

-- Ald. Angelino moved the mayoral appointments to the Civil Service Commission. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all, with Ald. Carnrike abstaining from the vote relative to Michael Carnrike's appointment due to a possible conflict of interest.

Gus Macker Tournament -- Ald. Carnrike clarified that East Main Street will be closed from Silver Street to Broad Street from 9 am on Friday, July 12 until 9 pm on Sunday, July 14 for the Gus Macker Tournament. He asked if the new business on East Main Street had been contacted relative to the event.

Curb Cut Request -- Ald. McNeil moved to approve a curb cut at 55 Canasawacta Street under the direction of the City Engineer. Seconded by Ald. Angelino and duly adopted, ayes all.

City Owned Property -- Ald. Thall asked the status of the city owned properties located on the corner of River and Gold Streets and Grove Avenue. DPW Supt. Ivarson said the City Attorney is reviewing the matter. The Council discussed several city owned parcels and concurred that surplus city owned property should go on the tax rolls.

CHIPS PUD Request -- Ald. Carnrike asked if CHIPS has been advertising for available apartments as Mr. Cummings stated would be done. Mayor Biviano said the advertisement has been running daily in the Evening Sun and according to Mr. Cummings, to date, two responses have been received allowing CHIPS to inspect their apartments. The Council reviewed a report from Judy Wingate Wade relative to the waiting list for subsidized housing.

-- Ald. Angelino moved that Richard Ingraham and CHIPS Director Barry Cummings be notified that their findings must be submitted to the City no later than 12 pm on Monday, July 15, 1996. Seconded by Ald. Carnrike and duly adopted, ayes all. The Council concurred that this deadline should allow them ample time to review the material prior to the Common Council meeting.

Common Council agenda -- The following agenda was developed for the July 16, 1996 Common Council meeting:

-- Call to order
-- Pledge of Allegiance
-- Invocation

-- Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of June 18, 1996, the special meeting of June 25, 1996 and the work session of July 9, 1996.

-- Public hearing - Ordinance to Revise the Schedule of Water Rates

-- Open forum

-- Bids
  -- Sale of 1994 Ford Taurus

-- Correspondence
  -- Memo to the Board of Health from the Code Enforcement Officer relative to re-inspection of the property on Silver & Mitchell St.
  -- Letter of resignation from Brian Haak as Acting Assessor, effective July 3, 1996.
  -- Letter of resignation from A. Anthony Abraham as member of the Assessment Board of Review, effective June 27, 1996.

-- Department, Board and Commission reports
  -- Parks Commission 1996 Parks Tour of June 17, 1996
  -- Traffic Commission minutes of June 12, 1996

-- Water Commission minutes of June 24, 1996
-- Youth Board minutes of June 11, 1996

-- Ward and Committee reports
  -- Public Safety Committee meeting of June 25, 1996

-- Old Business
  -- Res-Approving Ordinance To Amend the Zoning Ordinance Map of the City of Norwich
  -- Res-Designating the Common Council as Lead Agency for CHIPS Project
  -- Res-Determination of Negative Declaration for CHIPS Project
  -- Res-Consenting to the Formation of a Redevelopment Company

-- New Business
  -- Establish Amnesty Week schedule as follows:
    -- White Goods - August 5 - 10, 1996
    -- Tires - September 9 - 14, 1996

Residents should call DPW at 334-1240 prior to the following pickup dates to be placed on the list for curbside pickup.

Ald. Thall suggested that residents bring their tires to the DPW building to save time and manpower. Mayor Biviano said when residents miss the drop off, they tend to drop the tires off anywhere, causing crews to go out and pick the tires up anyway. Ald. Carnrike suggested the City purchase a large dumpster to be used for tires, Christmas trees, etc. to allow residents to drop off the items at the DPW during certain hours of the day when a person is on duty to oversee the drop off.

  -- Appointments - Norwich Fire Department
    -- Jennifer King, Maple Grove Trl Park, to the Emergency Squad
  -- Award of Bids
    -- Borden Avenue Well Field and Telemetry Improvements
    -- Sale of 1994 Ford Taurus
  -- Receive Ordinance Amending Ordinance Relative to Weeds and set public hearing for August 20, 1996
  -- Motion-Establish Alternative Check Signing Procedure
  -- Res-Noting Appreciation to Sgt. Robert Raphael
  -- Res-Noting Appreciation to Sgt. Larry Loomis
  -- Res-Auth Agreement for SARA Grant Award
  -- Res-Approve Ordinance Revising the Schedule of Water Rates
  -- Res-Approve V&T Ord Relative to Parking on Borden Avenue

Ald. Carnrike reported a parking problem on Eaton Avenue at the entrance to the NBT drive up. He said vehicles parked on the south side of Eaton Avenue obstruct the view of vehicles entering the NBT drive up. The matter was referred to the Traffic Commission for review.

  -- Res-Approve Revised Investment Policy

Director of Finance Haak explained that due to various changes made by New York State over the past several years, the City's current investment policy has become outdated. He has prepared a new policy based on the State's model investment policy.

  -- Res-Auth Transfer for HOME I Program
  -- Res-Est Policy for Budgetary Transfers for the HOME Program

Director of Finance Haak explained the resolution would allow the program to operate more efficiently with greater flexibility.

  -- Res-Approve Change Orders on Water System Improvement Project

DPW Supt. Ivarson explained the change orders relative to Contract #1 and Contract #2 of the Water System Improvement Project and noted the project is still under the $1.9 million budget.

  -- Res-Appointing a City Assessor

Mayor Biviano noted that this resolution would be discussed in executive session.

-- Res-Auth Additional Hours and Compensation for Deana DuFour

Director of Finance Haak reported the Personnel and Finance Committees have recommended an additional 2.5 hours per week for Ms. DuFour during the new computer system installation.

-- Payment of Bills

-- Adjournment

Executive Session -- Ald. Thall moved to go into executive session at 7:45 pm to discuss the purchase of property where the price may be affected, pending litigation and the personnel history of a particular individual. Seconded by Ald. Angelino and duly adopted, ayes all.

Ald. McNeil moved to go out of executive session at 8:45 pm. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn and duly adopted, ayes all.

New Fire Station -- Ald. McNeil moved that the City agree to expend up to $1 million for a fire station with the following requirements:

1. the total cost of the project shall not exceed $1.5 million; and,
2. the City will own the complete facility; and,
3. the site plan must be approved by the Common Council; and,
4. a proposed site plan must be presented to the Common Council within 60 days.

Seconded by Ald. Angelino and duly adopted, ayes all on a roll call vote, 6-0.

Resolution Appointing Assessor -- Ald. McNeil moved to offer Stephen Harris of Sherburne, NY, a position as City Assessor, at Grade 22, maximum step, prorated for 15 hours per week. Seconded by Ald. Thall and duly adopted, ayes all.

Adjournment -- Ald. McNeil moved to adjourn at 8:55 pm. Seconded by Ald. Angelino and duly adopted, ayes all.